288 The output of cotton cloth in the B.S.S.R. will also come from
433 restored mills. The two million metre target is considerably below
185 the 1937 output of 9.3 million metres (0.27 per cent. of total Soviet production), and even below the 1932 rate of 4 million metres, or 0.15 per cent. of the Soviet Union total.

● 295 Finished clothing, shoes, and hosiery in the B.S.S.R. are produced
433 under the Byelorussian Ministry of Light Industry; and the output in
185 1950 is expected to be as follows:

Shoes	7 million pairs
Hosiery	13.5 " "
Knitted underwear	3,510,000 units
Knitted clothes	1,680,000 "

The shoe output will come mainly from large restored factories in Minsk, Vitebsk, Gomel, and other cities. The above figure does not include output under co-operative and local industry; the total shoe production in Byelorussia in 1950 being set at 9,430,000 pairs, as compared with 8,075,000 pairs in 1937, (4.41 per cent. of total Soviet production) and 3,462,000 pairs in 1932, (3.98 per cent. of the Soviet Union output).

The lower production targets for cotton cloth and hosiery may be associated with the fact that the U.S.S.R. now has available new sources of textiles and clothing, notably at Lvov, Kliapeda, Riga, Narva, Tallin, and other Baltic cities. Moreover, under the national Five Year Plan for the U.S.S.R., the cotton textile industry of Central Asia will be expended near the sources of raw cotton, and proportionately less cotton will have to be shipped to processing mills in European areas of the Soviet Union.

Electric Power Stations

377 In 1937 the electric power stations of the B.S.S.R. had a capacity of 88,600 kilowatts and produced 430.4 million kilowatt hours of electric energy. Considerable progress had been made in electrification since 1932, when the B.S.S.R.'s stations had a total capacity of 60,000 kilowatts and produced 176.7 million kilowatt hours. For the entire Soviet Union, the output of electric energy in 1937 was 36,400 million kilowatt hours, as compared with only 13,540 million in 1932.

377 During the war the electric power stations of Byelorussia were
727 almost completely destroyed by the Germans. Since liberation they have been restored to only a limited extent, despite assistance from UNRRA, which, as part of the industrial rehabilitation programme, has furnished a number of power stations complete. In June 1946, when UNRRA Mission members visited Borisov, Orsha, Vitebsk, and Polotsk, facilities were estimated to be as follows.

648 UNRRA clothing and contributed clothing are distributed free. The local soviet in each instance prepares a list of persons eligible to receive such clothing. Otherwise, textiles and shoe leather supplied to Byelorussia under the UNRRA programme are converted into clothing and shoes at local co-operatives, or artels, which perform an important role in the production of consumers' goods in the Republic.

474 295 Typical of the producer co-operatives engaged in processing UNRRA-supplied textiles in the Novy Put Clothing Artel in Minsk which UNRRA Mission observers visited in November 1946. At this artel, garments were being made for war orphans cared for in children's homes. The finished garments were then distributed free of charge to the children, the government paying the artel for the cost of manufacture only.

Orders for the manufacture of clothing at this artel can be placed by organizations or by individuals; and as a general rule, the customer supplies his own materials and pays the artel only the established production cost. On orders placed by individuals, the production prices are, for a child's winter coat, 75 roubles,[1] for a woman's winter coat, 275 roubles, and for a man's winter coat, 250 roubles. Men's jackets are manufactured for 85 roubles, and trousers, for 45. Orders placed by organizations or wholesale outlets receive a 20 per cent. reduction on this scale.

The artel is organized on a co-operative profit-sharing basis. Its members are the workers employed in its shops and offices. In addition to their share in the artel's annual income, the member-workers are also paid regular wages for work performed. The monthly earnings of the employees in this artel were said to average 500 roubles. Earnings as high as 2,000 roubles a month were cited for cutters, but the majority of skilled workers earn from 600 to 1,200 roubles montly.

The artel "Novy Put" was first organized in 1928, during the first Five Year Plan. Before the German invasion in 1941, it had a membership of 400 workers, and in addition to the main establishment, it had four branches in various districts of Minsk. The membership, composed largely of Jews, suffered a very high casualty rate during the war; 90 per cent. were said to have perished at the hand of the Germans. In July 1944, shortly after the liberation of Minsk, the artel was reorganized; and it has been steadily growing both in membership and in output. By July 1, 1946, it had 110 workers.

The shoe artels are organized along the same general pattern as the clothing artels. In November 1946 the Red Shoemaker artel in Minsk was turning out a thousand pairs of workers' shoes and three thousand pairs of children's shoes per month.[2] The present membership

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1 5.40 roubles equal one U.S. dollar; 21.36 roubles equal one pound sterling.

2 UNRRA Mission to Byelorussia, Minsk.

295 is 70 workers, who are also share-holders, receiving 20 per cent. of
474 the annual income in addition to regular wages for work performed.

Before the war the "Red Shoemaker" artel was situated in a different part of the city. The production process was then entirely mechanized, and the membership consisted of 300 workers. The plant was demolished by the Germans during the war; and the present artel was organized in 1945 when five pre-war members returned to Minsk, following the liberation. At present there is practically no machinery in the artel, and shoes are being turned out by hand.

Medical Supplies: General Health

727 In relation to the vast destruction of Byelorussian medical facilities during the war, the UNRRA medical programme of just over one million dollars is a drop in a bucket. According to official Soviet estimates, the Germans in Byelorussia "ruined and plundered 1,136 hospitals, clinics, and dispensaries," which represented 75 per cent. of all hospitals and almost 100 per cent. of the medical supplies and equipment of the Republic. The damage has been calculated at 600 million roubles (about 120 million dollars).

164 Byelorussian officials today say that the general health of the population is below pre-war standards; but there are no alarming epidemics. Infant mortality is higher than in 1940; and tuberculosis, which increased markedly during the war, is still a serious problem, especially among returned war prisoners, partisans, and former "slave labourers". Typhus, which flared up during the German occupation, still occurs sporadically; and malaria, which spread rapidly during the war when no treatment was available, is still widely prevalent, but is being gradually reduced by the restoration of swamp drainage and mosquito control projects.

146 The most general problem is perhaps malnutrition; and because of the food shortages, scurvy, rickets, and anaemia are prevalent. Children are small for their age; and the adult population, as might be expected in the absence of adequate food, clothing, and shelter, is not in optimum health.

UNRRA Shipments

648 Up to January 31, 1947, nearly 70 per cent. of the UNRRA medical
742 programme for Byelorussia had been fulfilled; 163 gross long tons of drugs and equipment had been shipped. The largest single item of the medical programme is a penicillin plant, parts of which began to arrive in the U.S.S.R. in December 1946. In connection with the plant, the Byelorussian Government has designated a penicillin trainee to study penicillin production in Canada. A specialist hired by UNRRA is to aid in assembling the plant and in training other Byelorussian technicians in the production of the drug. The Byelorussian Government has expressed interest in using the same plant for the production of streptomycin.